

David Turch and Associates

CITY OF RIALTO

FEDERAL REPORT

JULY 2015

- Worked with Rialto's Public Works Department and Representative Norma Torres' staff, both in Washington, DC and the District, in securing a congressional letter of support to Caltrans on behalf of the City's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Cycle 7 grant application. The project will reduce vehicular-bicycle collision rates by installing bicycle lanes on Merrill Avenue from East City limits to West City limits, Cactus Avenue from Rialto Avenue to Valley Boulevard, and Riverside Avenue from Slover Avenue to South City limits. Provided draft letter of support for Congresswoman's review and consideration. Followed up with both congressional and City staff.
- Followed up with Representative Pete Aguilar's office regarding letter of support for Rialto's Police Department's Office Community Policing Development grant dealing with the transient, panhandler and homeless population of the City. By working closely with San Bernardino County health professionals, the Rialto Police Department aims to significantly reduce the calls for service regarding panhandlers, transients, the homeless and those with behavioral health issues by helping these people secure appropriate social and mental health services.
- Reviewed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) regulatory activities relating to Waters of the US. On June 29, 2015, the EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers published in the Federal Register their final rule on Waters of the United States, written under the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217). The rule goes into effect on August 28. The rule, according to the EPA, brings needed clarity to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act over wetlands and streams that feed into larger water bodies and supply drinking water. Critics of the rule have condemned EPA for exercising federal overreach. Twenty-six states have sued the EPA over the rule. In Congress, House Republicans have included a policy rider in H.R. 2822, the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, that would, in effect, prohibit the EPA from enforcing the rule. The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) is raising concerns about the rule focusing on how it may be interpreted to cover municipal stormwater and wastewater recycling systems which could be considered, under an expansive agency interpretation, "waters of the US" and therefore subject to the Clean Water Act. In addition, the EPA rule may interfere with cities water delivery systems since many of these projects are located in 100 year old floodplains or within 4,000 feet of Traditional Navigable Waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, or tributaries. Will continue to monitor this issue and its potential impact on Rialto.
- David Turch and Associates updates regarding short- and long-term transportation reauthorization bills, legislation targeting sanctuary cities, House-passed measure preventing states from requiring package labels to indicate the presence of genetically modified organisms (GMO), status of fiscal year 2016 appropriations process, California drought relief bill, Senate passage of No Child Left Behind Act rewrite, and Department of Veterans Affairs funding shortfall threatening veterans care.

- David Turch & Associates Newsletter
- Continue to monitor Rialto airport closure issue.
- Kevin Bosch ongoing notifications to City staff regarding federal grant notifications for the month.